

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus comprising:
an optical connector interface to couple an optical network connector with a mounting surface; and
an electrical connector interface to couple an electrical network connector with said mounting surface,
wherein said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface are vertically aligned with one another with respect to said mounting surface, and
wherein said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface are associated with a network element port.
2. The apparatus of claim 1,
wherein said electrical connector interface comprises a registered jack 45 (RJ-45) interface.
3. The apparatus of claim 2,
wherein said optical connector interface comprises an interface of a small form factor pluggable (SFP) optical module.
4. The apparatus of claim 2,
wherein said optical connector interface comprises an interface of a gigabit interface converter (GBIC) optical module.
5. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
an electrical isolation circuit coupled to said RJ-45 interface.
6. The apparatus of claim 5,
wherein said electrical isolation circuit comprises one or more magnetics components.
7. The apparatus of claim 2,
wherein said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface are associated with an auto-media detection network element port.
8. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
a visual indicator to indicate which of said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface is active on said network element port.

9. The apparatus of claim 8,
wherein said a visual indicator comprises at least one of a light emitting diode and a
light pipe.
10. The apparatus of claim 2,
wherein said electrical connector interface comprises an upper connector interface of
said network element port, and
wherein said optical connector interface comprises a lower connector interface of said
network element port.
11. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
a first electromagnetic signal shield enclosing at least a portion of said optical
connector interface; and
a second electromagnetic signal shield enclosing at least a portion of said electrical
connector interface.
12. The apparatus of claim 2,
wherein said mounting surface comprises a printed circuit board.
13. An apparatus comprising: /
a network element port;
an optical connector interface; and
an electrical connector interface;
wherein said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface are
associated with said network element port; and
wherein said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface are
substantially adjacent to one another along a line defined by an intersection of
a connector-receiving plane of said network element port and a connector-
insertion plane of said network element port.
14. The apparatus of claim 13, comprising:
wherein said electrical connector interface comprises a registered jack 45 (RJ-45)
interface.

15. The apparatus of claim 14,
wherein said optical connector interface comprises an interface of a small form factor pluggable (SFP) optical module.
16. The apparatus of claim 14,
wherein said optical connector interface comprises an interface of a gigabit interface converter (GBIC) optical module.
17. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
an electrical isolation circuit coupled to said RJ-45 interface.
18. The apparatus of claim 17,
wherein said electrical isolation circuit comprises one or more magnetics components.
19. The apparatus of claim 14,
wherein said network element port comprises an auto-media detection network element port.
20. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
a visual indicator to indicate which of said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface is active on said network element port.
21. The apparatus of claim 20,
wherein said a visual indicator comprises at least one of a light emitting diode and a light pipe.
22. The apparatus of claim 14,
wherein said electrical connector interface comprises an upper connector interface of said network element port, and
wherein said optical connector interface comprises a lower connector interface of said network element port.

23. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
a first electromagnetic signal shield enclosing at least a portion of said optical connector interface; and
a second electromagnetic signal shield enclosing at least a portion of said electrical connector interface.
24. A method comprising:
coupling an optical connector interface associated with a network element port to a mounting surface; and
coupling an electrical connector interface associated with said network element port to said mounting surface such that said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface are vertically aligned with one another with respect to said mounting surface.